

CONFIDENTIAL
SECURITY INFORMATION

2 May 1952

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
OFFICE OF SCIENTIFIC INTELLIGENCE
Office of Assistant for Production

PROPOSED EXTERNAL RESEARCH PROJECT

(Tab 18) 25X1

The Problem: To develop Methodology for Forecasting in one or more fields of importance in scientific intelligence

Discussion: Forecasting has a large place in many important OSI activities including many intelligence papers, support for RDB, etc.

Ins. ①

It is
One of the primary missions of OSI ~~is~~ to estimate what munitions, weapons systems, and tactics will be used by potential enemies two, three, five or ten years from the present, based in large part upon forecasting ability.

Ins. ②

It
Studies have been made upon forecasting methods in a limited number of fields in the social sciences, including business activity, prices, population changes, etc. Very little critical study has been devoted to methods for forecasting in intelligence. The present RAND studies are inadequate.

25X1

Ins. ③

Admittedly, statistical analysis will have a place in any such studies, including an estimate of the reliability of the results.

This is a large subject. We believe that a systematic attack by competent personnel would yield worthwhile results and would assist the efforts of the group within OSI already at work on this problem.

Recommendation: I recommend this for serious consideration as a possible Research Project

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